

Space Day 2003



February 2003

communiqué



Canada Shoots for Record Space DaySM Participation

From British Columbia to Newfoundland, Montreal to Saskatoon, America's neighbor to the north has already moved into high gear in anticipation of 2003's **Space DaySM** celebration.

This year's activities will highlight the upcoming assignments of two Canadian astronauts: Steve MacLean's STS-115 mission to the International Space Station in May 2003 and Dave Williams' history-making STS-118 mission with Educator Astronaut Barbara Morgan in November 2003.

In tandem with 15 community organizations, the Aero Space Museum of Calgary is planning **Space Day** events at its own facility as well as at the Calgary Science Centre, Eau Claire IMAX[®] theatre and the Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School.

Children will participate in hands-on activities and demonstrations, while interacting with Canadian engineers and scientists. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, who recently returned from Russia, will also be participating in a live teleconference with Calgary area students on **Space Day**.

Toronto schools are planning visits to the Toronto Aerospace Museum, the Challenger Center at the Ontario Science Centre and the Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute. It's

anticipated that Canadian aerospace companies will also take part in the festivities by exhibiting their hardware and mentoring **Space DaySM** *Design Challenges* students.



From hands-on activities to engrossing events, Canada has big plans for **Space Day 2003**.

Montreal will host a series of citywide events at local schools, science centers and museums, including guest speakers, space films and a variety of hands-on activities. Among the participants: the Cosmôdome, Télé-Quebec, Loyola High School, Lester B. Pearson Centre of Educational Excellence, John Abbott
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Proud To Be A Partner



A message from Marc Garneau, President of the Canadian Space Agency and former astronaut.

The principles of math and science are better

understood when they are applied to real life situations, especially if they are related to sectors that interest youth. Space is one of those sectors that captivates the minds of elementary and middle school students, and the Canadian Space Agency is proud to be a partner of the educational initiative, **Space Day**.

If we want today's students to become tomorrow's scientists who will build on our legacy, we must provide them with an environment that will nurture their innate curiosity.

In addition to partnering with **Space Day**, the Canadian Space Agency has developed, through its Youth Awareness Program, educational material that teachers, parents and students can easily access on its Web site at www.space.gc.ca. It contains videos, games, FAQs on pertinent topics such as Robotics, Mars Exploration, Astronomy and Building Structures in Space.



Space DaySM 2003 PARTNERS

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Space DaySM 2003 ASSOCIATES

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Toronto District School Board
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STAR OF THE MONTH

Brian Jackson, Dedicated Teacher and "Space Geek"



(Photos this page) Teacher Brian Jackson, **Space Day's** enthusiastic regional coordinator for Canada, gets right into his new role.



"I always wanted to be an astronaut when I was a kid," says Brian Jackson, **Space Day's** regional coordinator for Canada. "But when I missed the opportunity, I decided my best option was to inspire the children around me." He's doing it, too. Brian is a middle school teacher in Chestermere, Alberta, a small town east of Calgary, where he teaches sixth grade science, math and computer studies.

Described by local media as a "space geek," Brian speaks to community groups on a variety of hot topics from rocketry to life aboard the International Space Station. He's also heavily involved in organizing the Calgary area's **Space Day** activities, something he's done for the past five years. "We've got events specifically designed for kids all around the city," he says. "We also have special online contests where students can answer a trivia question and win a spot for their class either

at the Calgary Science Centre or IMAX[®] theatre." A key effort has centered on involving as many area teachers as possible. "The response has been incredible," he says, "with literally thousands of teachers looking for ideas on programs and projects."

With his role now expanded to include being a Regional Coordinator, Brian is working on a way to link people across Canada's vast distances. "My goal is to bring the message of **Space Day** to all Canadian children," he says, "and then connect them via a nationwide network in which ideas are shared and children can celebrate together." Brian is

developing a special page on his school's Web site that will allow people to share ideas and information on regional activities.

As far as missed opportunities go, Brian urges young "space geeks" to "ask as many question as you can, find out about everything that interests you, and don't let anything get in your way. If you want to be an astronaut or engineer, it will be a lot of hard work. But it will be worth it."



PROFILE



Anne Breaks, **Space Day 2003** Spokesperson

Anne Breaks Dares to Dream

As a child, she grew up in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains in Bragg Creek, Alberta, gazing at the vivid constellations

in the night sky. By age eight, Anne Breaks, **Space Day 2003's** international teen spokesperson, knew she was bound for the stars and was determined to become an astronaut. "I read and memorized every book I could find on space exploration and began a program to study astronomy, math and physics," she explains.

At age 14, Anne received the highest mark on the Royal Astronomical Society's astronomy exam. "That opened doors for me to

meet many people involved in space research and technology," she says. One of those people was astronaut Julie Payette, who told her about the attributes, skills and qualifications necessary to become a Canadian astronaut. "So I set out to develop those skills," says Anne.

Indeed she did. Now in 12th grade, this honors student, whose personal theme is "Dare to Dream," is learning Russian, Japanese and German, scuba diving and taekwon-do. Anne also joined the 781st Air Cadets Squadron to gain leadership, public speaking and team-building skills as well as glider and pilot training. In addition, she's a licensed ham operator, who speaks with astronauts in space through the communications center at the Aero Space Museum of Calgary. In 2000 the Museum



A determined and multi-talented high school senior, Anne has wanted to be an astronaut since age 8.

nominated her as its delegate to the International Space School Program at Houston's Johnson Space Center.

So, what is Anne's advice for young, would-be astronauts? While there are many avenues one can follow,

all of the astronauts she's met agree on one point: "The only thing you really need is determination and perseverance. Even if it takes nine years of applying, you should never give up!" ■



If you, your colleagues or students have participated in a **Space Day** discussion board online, asked questions of space experts or received tips on how to collaborate with other schools, chances are ePALS Classroom Exchange™ was involved. As

a **Space Day** Partner from Canada, ePALS has played an integral role by reaching out to millions of teachers and students in 191 countries. "We are thrilled to have offered a safe, online communications tool in support of **Space Day** for the last three years," says ePALS' Director of Business Development Sheila Strickland. "Each year, more teachers and students use our moderated discussion boards to meet, mentor, collaborate and find solutions to the *Design Challenges*. The shared learning helps bring this important project to life!" If you haven't already done so, check out ePALS at www.epals.com.

BITS AND PIECES

• **WELCOME ABOARD** – We are pleased to announce that Montreal's Lester B. Pearson Centre of Educational Excellence and the Toronto District School Board have signed on as new **Space Day** Associates.

• **YOU BE THE JUDGE!** Want to help judge **Space Day Design Challenges** entries? Contact Allan Childers at achilders@devillier.com.

• **EDUCATOR ASTRONAUTS WANTED** – Teachers take note! NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe and Florida's First Lady Columba Bush recently announced a unique program aimed at recruiting educators for NASA's astronaut corps. The goal is to generate renewed interest in science and math and cultivate a new generation of scientists and engineers. Teachers may apply through the Educator Astronaut Web site at <http://edspace.nasa.gov> or call 877-332-7876 toll-free. But move quickly – the application deadline is April 30, 2003!

• **BOOK IT!** – The American Library Association, a **Space Day** Partner organization, has issued a list of recommended books and videos related to the theme **Space Day 2003: Celebrating the Future of Flight**. Look in spaceday.org's *Design Challenges* section on the "Teacher's Helper" page. The direct link is www.spaceday.org/EN/Pdf/book_video_list.pdf.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Events and Activities

FEBRUARY 7 - 8, 2003

Annual International Space Station Educator Conference, Space Center Houston

MARCH 3, 2003 (REMINDER!)

Deadline to submit **Space Day Design Challenges** solutions.

(continued from the front cover)

College Flight School, Lanaudiere Flight Centre, EMS Technologies, Port of Montreal Science Centre and the Canadian Space Agency.

Mid-country in Manitoba, the Western Canadian Aviation Museum in Winnipeg will be hosting young people at their "Spaceways" interactive exhibit, while farther west, Space West of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, will present Canada's space program to youth in local schools through special exhibits and presentations by scientists.

"We hope to have participation from as many as 26 science centers and museums across Canada," says **Space Day** Regional Coordinator Brian Jackson. (For more on Brian, see page 2.)

That will be a new record, and we'll bet they succeed! ■



Only three months to go!

- ☒ Last call! Submit **Space Day Design Challenges** entries by March 3.
- ☒ Post your **Space Day** event information on spaceday.org's "**Space Day** in Your Neighborhood," so others can contact you.
- ☒ Line up speakers for your **Space Day** event.
- ☒ Secure **Space Day** proclamations from your mayor and members of Congress - and notify us at achilders@devillier.com
- ☒ Submit your request to sponsor a *Student Signatures in Space*® school to: signatures@mindspring.com.

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